Unknown

From: gov.sarah@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 4:56 PM
To: Kreitzer; Annette E (DOA)
Subject: Fw: INSIGHT: Classy Hand-Off

Merry Christmas Annette! Thanks for the good and impressive work you've accomplished on Rural Cap, to be continued by Rhonda:

Sent from my BlackBerry® device from Cellular One

-----Original Message-----

From: gov.sarah@yahoo.com

Date: Tue, 25 Dec 2007 01:54:56

To:"McBride, Rhonda (GOV)" <rhonda.mcbride@alaska.gov>,"K Perry" <kris.perry@alaska.gov>,"Bailey, Frank T (GOV)" <frank.bailey@alaska.gov>,"Mike Tibbles" <mike.tibbles@alaska.gov>,"M Nizich" <mike.nizich@alaska.gov>

Subject: Re: INSIGHT: Classy Hand-Off

Rhonda:

Couldn't agree more! Your discerning assessment of Annette's service there is spot on. Thanks for recognizing that.

It will be so great to have you as a part of Rural Cap now, too.

Thank you. And enjoy Christmas eve!

Sent from my BlackBerry® device from Cellular One

-----Original Message-----

From: "McBride, Rhonda (GOV)" <rhonda.mcbride@alaska.gov>

Date: Mon, 24 Dec 2007 14:26:57

To:gov.sarah@yahoo.com, "Perry, Kristina Y (GOV)" <kris.perry@alaska.gov>,"Bailey, Frank T (GOV)" <frank.bailey@alaska.gov>,"Tibbles, Michael A (GOV)" <mike.tibbles@alaska.gov>,"Nizich, Michael A (GOV)" <mike.nizich@alaska.gov>

Subject: INSIGHT: Classy Hand-Off

Not an urgent e-mail. But some insights into the value of the work that we do, that are not always in the job description.

During my first week on the job, Commissioner Annette Kreitzer did some mentoring, as she handed off her duties to me as the governor's representative on the RurAL CAP Board.

It's clear this non-profit agency is appreciative of Commissioner Kreitzer's five years of service on the board.

For one thing, she has a reputation for doing her homework. Board members talked about how she scrutinized the voluminous board packets - something that very few board members actually do. But they know Commissioner Kreitzer did, because she asked lots of tough questions… questions that weren't always well received at first, but in the end helped the organization better meet its challenges.

It struck me that this has taken a lot of courage on Commissioner Kreitzer's part. Since most non-profits are formed to provide a community service, there's a tendency for those who run these organizations to look past the bottom line questions - often to the non-profit's detriment.

From child development programs to energy, RurAL CAP is growing concern - a $25 million a year corporation. And Kreitzer's expertise in budget and finance came at an important time.

Commissioner Kreitzer served on two nuts-and-bolts committees: the Audit Committee and the Administration and Finance Committee.

During recent committee meetings, I had a chance to observe her in action. She often emphasized the importance of accountability and measuring outcomes.

A telling moment came in the discussion of RurAL CAP's vision statement - which included the goal of "Environmental Action." Commissioner Kreitzer questioned whether this was in line with RurAL CAP's mission to address poverty. At the Commissioner's suggestion, board members changed the language to "Community Improvement" - a goal that is not only more accurate, but less politically inflammatory - perhaps heading off future opposition to RurAL CAP programs. Many of RurAL CAPS programs deal with recycling and solid wastes - but are mostly used as a vehicle to grow village leaders - so to head them under "environmental action" is not nearly as comprehensive.

When the board officially thanked Commissioner Kreitzer, they teased her about her

aversion to "group hugs. But you could sense from the people in the room, they would miss her dedication -- and occasional contrarian voice. There was acknowledgement that she served the greater good by raising good questions.

From energy to tribal government to subsistence, the state will wrestle with some difficult rural issues in the year ahead – and RurAL CAP will be an important resource to tap.

I look forward to serving on the board, appreciative that Commissioner Kreitzer has laid a good foundation for me. As I shadowed her, she took time to explain the dynamics of the board – and gave me pointers on how to conduct myself.

The RurAL CAP board is made up of Native leaders from across the state, and the care and professionalism that she took in making her transition off the board, put the Palin administration in a positive light.

It was nothing short of classy. And there's no doubt, Commissioner Kreitzer will be a tough act to follow.

###

Rhonda McBride

Rural Affairs Advisor

Office of the Governor

Atwood Building, Suite 1700

550 West 7th Avenue

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Tel: (907) 269-7451

E-Mail: Rhonda.McBride@alaska.gov

Unknown

From: gov.sarah@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 4:55 PM
To: McBride; Rhonda (GOV); Perry; Kristina Y (GOV); Bailey; Frank T (GOV); Tibbles; Michael A (GOV); Nizich; Michael A (GOV)
Subject: Re: INSIGHT: Classy Hand-Off

Rhonda:

Couldn't agree more! Your discerning assessment of Annette's service there is spot on. Thanks for recognizing that.

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Sent from my BlackBerry® device from Cellular One

-----Original Message-----

From: "McBride, Rhonda (GOV)" <rhonda.mcbride@alaska.gov>

Date: Mon, 24 Dec 2007 14:26:57

To:gov.sarah@yahoo.com, "Perry, Kristina Y (GOV)" <kris.perry@alaska.gov>,"Bailey, Frank T (GOV)" <frank.bailey@alaska.gov>,"Tibbles, Michael A (GOV)" <mike.tibbles@alaska.gov>,"Nizich, Michael A (GOV)" <mike.nizich@alaska.gov>

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It was nothing short of classy. And there's no doubt, Commissioner Kreitzer will be a tough act to follow.

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Rhonda McBride

Rural Affairs Advisor

Office of the Governor

Atwood Building, Suite 1700

550 West 7th Avenue

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Tel: (907) 269-7451

E-Mail: Rhonda.McBride@alaska.gov

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 10:21 AM
To: Beck; Deborah (DOL)
Subject: RE: Other

Thank you for writing to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. The concerns, opinions, and/or information you have sent are important and valuable to the Governor. Although she is unable to respond to each and every email herself, your message has been received and is being reviewed by the appropriate staff person in this office who can best address your need, suggestion, or comment.

-----Original Message-----

From: WebMail@gov.state.ak.us [mailto:WebMail@gov.state.ak.us]

Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 10:07 AM

To: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored)

Subject: Other

Web mail from: deborah beck

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 10:21 AM
To: Capen; Lori M (HSS)
Subject: RE: THANK YOU - RE: December 24 Schedule

Thank you for writing to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. The concerns, opinions, and/or information you have sent are important and valuable to the Governor. Although she is unable to respond to each and every email herself, your message has been received and is being reviewed by the appropriate staff person in this office who can best address your need, suggestion, or comment.

From: Capen, Lori M (HSS)

Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 10:12 AM

To: Palin, Sarah H (GOV)

Subject: THANK YOU - RE: December 24 Schedule

Governor Palin,

Thank you - very much - for giving the

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 8:35 AM
To: Mason; Janice L (GOV)
Subject: FW: Other

-----Original Message-----

From: WebMail@gov.state.ak.us [mailto:WebMail@gov.state.ak.us]

Sent: Friday, December 21, 2007 1:07 PM

To: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored)

Subject: Other

Web mail from: Conchita McKnight

address: 150 3rd Street Juneau AK 99801

465-1768

MESSAGE:

Hello Governor Palin,

I just wanted to send a quick THANK YOU for holiday leave you are granting us.

It is also appreciated to know that it is non-discretionary. I know many years when my husband (also a state employee) was able to leave early and my office would not be able to. Your message made it clear that i

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 8:32 AM
To: Boothby; Taunnie L (CED)
Subject: RE: December 24 Schedule

Thank you for writing to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. The concerns, opinions, and/or information you have sent are important and valuable to the Governor. Although she is unable to respond to each and every email herself, your message has been received and is being reviewed by the appropriate staff person in this office who can best address your need, suggestion, or comment.

From: Boothby, Taunnie L (CED)

Sent: Friday, December 21, 2007 2:52 PM

To: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored)

Cc: office, commissioners (DOA sponsored)

Subject: RE: December 24 Schedule

Dear Gove

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 10:23 AM
To: Cayce; Sunny C (GOV)
Cc: Crome; Cora J (GOV)
Subject: FW: nov 28th minutes MVFGAC

From: Mark Chryson [mailto:mark@web-ak.com]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 8:53 AM
To: Mark Chryson
Subject: nov 28th minutes MVFGAC

Got the final meeting minutes here for Nov. 28th

Am waiting on Sherry to get the notes she took so I can combine what she has and I had as she has more of the election items recorded. We don't want to miss anything.

Hope everyone has a great Christmas

Mark Chryson
2140 Wolverine Circle
Wasilla, AK 99654
907-376-8285
http://www.web-ak.com

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 8:25 AM
To: 'tamistikes@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: Other

Thank you for writing to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. The concerns, opinions, and/or information you have sent are important and valuable to the Governor. Although she is unable to respond to each and every email herself, your message has been received and is being reviewed by the appropriate staff person in this office who can best address your need, suggestion, or comment.

-----Original Message-----

From: WebMail@gov.state.ak.us [mailto:WebMail@gov.state.ak.us]

Sent: Friday, December 21, 2007 7:32 PM

To: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored)

Subject: Other

Web mail from: Tami Bowman

address: 4449 Columbia Blvd Juneau AK 9981

907-523-5451

MESSAGE:

Dear Governor Palin -

My name is Tami Bowman. I am a mother of two, and I have been a licensed childcare provider in Juneau for almost one year. Many of the families I work with depend on child-care assistance to be able to afford quality, regulated care for their children so that they can

work. Childcare assistance is a great benefit to the modest and low-income families in Juneau to whom the real cost of child-care is an overwhelming financial burden.

Unfortunately, I have heard that the hard working, dedicated child-care providers in

the state of Alaska have not had a raise in wages in 8 years. I understand this is because the state of Alaska has not increased its allocation for childcare assistance in since the year 2000. Although I realize I haven't been in the business that long, I believe it because the maximum amount the State of Alaska will pay today for infant Child care is $65 less than what I paid at a facility for my daughter in 2001. I also had to supply food for her until she was over 1 year old. My rates are slightly higher than what the state allocates for childcare (and I still charge less than what I paid for my daughter AND I provide food). This means parents have to pay the difference between my rates and the state's rates, and it is one more expense that these families cannot afford. The process

in which the state decides how much funding they will allocate for the next year's assistance is a very flawed process. The state bases future allocations on a survey taken of childcare providers' r

ates. Last year they picked a date - July 18th I believe - for us to be ready to answer questions for. They asked me how many children were in care and for how long that day, how many were on assistance and what my rates were. I base my rates on what the state will pay, so that my parents don't have the extra burden of coming up with extra money they don't have just to pay me.

If I raise my rates, my clients will go where there is less financial burden. If I don't raise my rates, I will not be able to afford my home for much longer. So it is no surprise to me that facilities are closing. In 2001, I had a home with a mortgage of $130,000. I now have a $285,000 mortgage for a home with one more bedroom and a smaller yard than I had before. How can a person keep a childcare facility open with the cost of living going up as it is?

In addition to being under-funded, there are serious flaws in the way the child-care assistance monies are regulated. If the parent needs full-time childcare and is working full-time, authorizations should be for full-time childcare not "16 full time days attendance, unless the child attends more, in which case the full-time enrollment amount

will be paid". This sort of an authorization gives the provider no idea at all what will be paid until the beginning of the next month when they are paid. In fact, the parent's full co-pay is due at the beginning of the month and with an attendance authorization, the provider cannot know what to charge as the parent will have to pay for any missed days.

The state will only pay for the days the child attends care. This seems reasonable at first glance but it is actually a policy with terrible implications. For example, if a child doesn't attend care for one or several days due to illness or some other family emergency, the state will not subsidize care for those days. So the parent misses a day of work and has to pay the full day's rate of care that day. Parents should not be denied childcare funding because they have sick kids and could not go to work or school. Denial for childcare funding due to circumstances beyond the control of the parent such as sick children or if they themselves are sick or for other reasons unable to work is just plain wrong. It is a financial double whammy for low-income parents.

The other obvious implication of this misguided policy is that parents consistently bring their sick children to childcare to avoid the financial expense of keeping them home. This, of course, is not what is best for a sick child and is also endangering the health of

the other children in care as well as the health of the childcare provider. And if a child is particularly sickly and misses several days a month, it is a balance the parent is often not able to pay.

This leaves me, as the provider, with the choice of either eating the loss of income (which is what most often happens), or discontinuing care for that child, which still leaves me unpaid. So I ask this, why is child-care for low-income families being subsidized on the

backs of the states hard-working, dedicated child-care providers? My bills don't go down because I was sick for two weeks or if I go on vacation, so why should my income go down because someone else's child is sick or their family pays for them to come visit for the holidays?

I have a family of my own. By default the state is asking me to subsidize the care for Alaska's young children. I cannot create a household budget because I rarely get paid what I charge my people who use childcare assistance because the bureaucracy doesn't allow it and people on assistance count on that assistance and cannot afford to pay the extra expense when their children are sick. Should I not accept low-income children into my care and only provide these valuable spots for parents that are able to pay out-of-pocket? (At least then, I would not be working without pay and subsidizing a problem that is not mine). Should we have a childcare hierarchy where the valuable, regulated, licensed childcare spots are reserved for parents who are able to pay without assistance, leaving parents who are dependent on assistance to leave their kids home with the neighbor, or in unregulated care? Any way you look at it, the state is going to end up paying to support these families.

I keep hearing about a childcare crisis in Juneau. I believe people living in Juneau will continue to have problems finding quality childcare if childcare providers continue to have problems being adequately compensated for their work. The childcare assistance

bureaucracy is a mess and does not do enough to assist the parents who need it or the providers who bill it. These rules and regulations that do not allow parents to receive the funding they need for childcare and delay or prevent childcare providers from receiving payment for services rendered are a major reason for the crisis in childcare in Juneau.

Please hear my plea and that of other daycare providers. We need help and we need it soon! You are a mother of young children, and I know you understand as a parent how important quality child care is for ALL families. Please use some of your "Budget Surplus" to re-do the childcare assistance system so that low-income families can afford to work, and so that we can continue to provide quality, regulated care for them.

Thank you for your time in considering this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Tami J Bowman

Owner/Provider

Tami's Tikes Licensed Childcare

tamistikes@gmail.com

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 8:23 AM
To: Cornwall; Daniel D (EED)
Subject: RE: Other

Thank you for writing to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. The concerns, opinions, and/or information you have sent are important and valuable to the Governor. Although she is unable to respond to each and every email herself, your message has been received and is being reviewed by the appropriate staff person in this office who can best address your need, suggestion, or comment.

-----Original Message-----

From: WebMail@gov.state.ak.us [mailto:WebMail@gov.state.ak.us]

Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 8:22 AM

To: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored)

Subject: Other

Web mail from: Mr. Daniel Corn

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 8:20 AM
To: faelucky@netscape.net
Subject: RE: Elections

Thank you for writing to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. The concerns, opinions, and/or information you have sent are important and valuable to the Governor. Although she is unable to respond to each and every email herself, your message has been received and is being reviewed by the appropriate staff person in this office who can best address your need, suggestion, or comment.

-----Original Message-----

From: WebMail@gov.state.ak.us [mailto:WebMail@gov.state.ak.us]

Sent: Friday, December 21, 2007 8:47 PM

To: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored)

Subject: Elections

Web mail from: Mike n Maka Fairman

address: 3813 Forest Glen Dr. Homer AK 99603

907-235-6860

MESSAGE:

Our Dearest Mrs. Palin;

My wife and I would like to thank you for such a fine job and such a great personality you have given back to us regular citizens. You know, the ones that comprise the majority of this state, but are less the money it seems to take to even be able to help ourselves in these trying times. Madam Governor, we truly think it would put a real bad mark on your flawless career were you to join up with any one but one that shares your INTEGRITY, HONESTY, and PROFESSIONAL WISDOM! If you really are the upstanding and truly humanitarian person you appear to be, and we really believe you are, Rudy Giuliani, or any one like him would be a very bad mistake! We believe this country has had it's full/up of unreliable and dishonest people that take the rest of us for fools and for what-ever reason, don't seem to have the gumption to take us forward as we believe you would and certainly could. We dare to say madam, YOU SHOULD RUN FOR PRESIDENT! You are a true leader and a very kindly person. Ho

wever; if a vice were your intention, if/when, Ron Paul is also a great humanitarian and seems to carry the same weight with the PEOPLE that you do! Oh, he is also a republican.

We don't care for party lines. It seems to follow the old adage,"Divide and Conquer". We will always announce you to others as "A wise humanitarian with buckets full of honesty and sincerity". Please forgive me for carrying on but after we heard that they, whoever they are, are considering running you with Rudy; well, we just had to have our say to you as citizens of this country. With like kind, we truly believe you can take this country

where we need to be as a whole nation. With Rudy, your support would surely diminish to a point that trust would be a question in our lives AGAIN!?

Thank You for listening

Peace and Love

Mike n Maka Fairman

faelucky@netscape.net

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 8:11 AM
To: 'absmiler@gci.net'
Subject: RE: Elections

Thank you for writing to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. The concerns, opinions, and/or information you have sent are important and valuable to the Governor. Although she is unable to respond to each and every email herself, your message has been received and is being reviewed by the appropriate staff person in this office who can best address your need, suggestion, or comment.

-----Original Message-----

From: WebMail@gov.state.ak.us [mailto:WebMail@gov.state.ak.us]

Sent: Saturday, December 22, 2007 9:56 AM

To: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored)

Subject: Elections

Web mail from: Karenza Schuller

address: 4405 Abby Way Juneau AK 99801

425-344-1024

MESSAGE:

Governor Palin,

Since my last letter to you, several things have happened to me. I sent you a letter describing injury incidents and complications with health coverage. That letter was sent on 12/20/2006. Today is 12/22/2006. On Friday the 21st I went to the division of Retirement and Benefits. I was able to sit down with someone and discuss my concerns. As it turns out, the woman I have been dealing with at Premera Blue Cross misquoted information to me. When I received the COBRA enrollment papers, I read them very carefully. At that time I read and understood that you cannot make partial payments for your monthly premiums. When I called and spoke with this woman she said, "We understand that if you are on COBRA it means that you are not employed. We accept partial payments and keep a running balance for you. As long as you make regular monthly payments, your coverage will remain active." So, of course, I listened to the insurance company. I have made regular monthly payments for covera

ge that began in February 2007. While at DRB I was told that the information I was given was simply incorrect. I am now expected to come up with over $8000.00 immediately to continue coverage. Also, if I am unable to come up with the premiums, Premera will take back all monies payed to my health care providers. Once they take back all of those payments, I am quite sure I will no longer be able to continue with my current treatment plan for the injuries I sustained in 2006. My condition has already become chronic. No treatments will ensure it becomes permanent.

I also followed up with Occupational Disability. They informed me that when I cashed out the small amount I had in PERS (to pay for insurance premiums and prescriptions) I lost membership. No one had ever told me what "membership" meant. I had no idea there were any other benefits besides monetary. I asked if I could pay back that money and was told I could if I returned to work. Again, these injuries have left me disabled. So there is no help for me there. I hope someone is reviewing this situation. The system has some serious flaws that need to be addresses.

Very sincerely again,

Karenza Schuller

425-344-1024

absmiler@gci.net

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 8:00 AM
To: ak5505@gci.net
Subject: RE: Fish_and_Game

Thank you for writing to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. The concerns, opinions, and/or information you have sent are important and valuable to the Governor. Although she is unable to respond to each and every email herself, your message has been received and is being reviewed by the appropriate staff person in this office who can best address your need, suggestion, or comment.

-----Original Message-----

From: WebMail@gov.state.ak.us [mailto:WebMail@gov.state.ak.us]

Sent: Sunday, December 23, 2007 10:27 AM

To: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored)

Subject: Fish_and_Game

Web mail from: Mr. Dean Lippold

address: 2671 Terry Lane North Pole AK 99705

907488-5505

MESSAGE:

Governor

I'm writing to you today in regards to our issues with hunting within Alaska. There seems to be more and more hunters chasing an ever decreasing population of game. After reading and commenting on the Jan 08 Fish & Game list of proposals to changes of 2008 hunting regulations, it has become apparent that Alaska is not managing its game with the average Alaskan resident in mind. I would like to know how Non Residents are allowed to make proposals to change Alaskan hunting regulations. Why do we allow a non resident guide who is only coming to Alaska to make money to propose and lobby for changes? Do you think he is proposing changes that will benefit Alaskans? Of course not, his proposals will benefit him and other guides alike. There is something wrong when non resident sheep hunters harvest just as many sheep as residents. There's something wrong with the fact that in theory. 100% of permits can be drawn by non residents. I would hope you agree that the majority of our permi

ts should be going to residents. How shameful would it be if all 150 permits issued for the Delta Control Use Area went to non resident? Some of the new permit areas have been given a cap on how many permits can go to non residents'. The rest of our permit areas should be the same way. Why do we give our recourses away? A non resident goat tag goes for $350.00 but yet that same permit in another state is well over a $1000.00

I'm not sure what you can to about this problem, but anything you can do to help rectify this will be greatly appreciated by all Alaskan sportsmen.

Dean Lippold

2671 Terry Lane

North Pole, AK 99705

ak5505@gci.net

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 7:43 AM
To: Tokrv@aptalaska.net
Subject: RE: General_Administration

Thank you for writing to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. The concerns, opinions, and/or information you have sent are important and valuable to the Governor. Although she is unable to respond to each and every email herself, your message has been received and is being reviewed by the appropriate staff person in this office who can best address your need, suggestion, or comment.

-----Original Message-----

From: WebMail@gov.state.ak.us [mailto:WebMail@gov.state.ak.us]

Sent: Sunday, December 23, 2007 4:41 PM

To: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored)

Subject: General_Administration

Web mail from:

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 7:39 AM
To: 'sieversheather@yahoo.com'
Subject: RE: Health_Care

Thank you for writing to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. The concerns, opinions, and/or information you have sent are important and valuable to the Governor. Although she is unable to respond to each and every email herself, your message has been received and is being reviewed by the appropriate staff person in this office who can best address your need, suggestion, or comment.

-----Original Message-----

From: WebMail@gov.state.ak.us [mailto:WebMail@gov.state.ak.us]

Sent: Sunday, December 23, 2007 8:14 PM

To: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored)

Subject: Health_Care

Web mail from: Ms. Heather Sievers

address: 4442 Lauesen Ave. North Pole AK 99705

907-488-1996

MESSAGE:

Dear Mrs. Palin,

Hello my name is Heather Sievers I would like to ask if there is any way I could help the people of Fairbanks and hopefully one day all of Alaska with a critical need I feel our people can no longer do without. I was born in 1978. A month after I was born I was critically ill. I was in and out of the hospital until I was a year old. The condition I was diagnosed was Type One not Two but One Diabetes. The night the doctor finally diagnosed me I was on my fathers floor of the truck flopping around. Then went into a coma. I should of died. But to the grace of god I lived. The only way my parents survived all my medical bills, doctor visits every month, hospital stays, and my whole ordeal about taking on this disease as a person was my father Kevin Hile was stationed in the military. My medical was paid for. Until I turned eight-teen. After that my life has gone down hill. I could no longer aford my medical expenses. I'm thousands of dollars in dedt. I use to be told I'll beat this

disease. Now all the doctors tell me I'm gonna die. See my father was stationed up here in 1989. So no I wasn't born here but haven't left since then. I love Alaska it's my home. I have two biological daughters Ezabelle and Savannah. I also have a son but he's my step son I've tooken care of him since he was four months old. In having this disease I've learned a lot about it and recieved some sickening complications. I've lost my eye sight, my heart has many complications, feeling, depression, I've had my urethra sliced open then closed again, doctors say my kidneys are okay but thats the number one complication in diabetics. I've had my thyroid removed, my tubes tied, now I have to have surgery again to fix a hunia. Every year I've had to get something done. I delay going to the doctors as much as I can. I'm twenty-nine and have the state of Alaska paying for a majority of my

medical. My one question is how can I find a physician that will help me with this disease because I'v

e been through hell trying to get in to s!

ee a doctor. First my original doctor at Tanana Valley Clinic in Fairbanks resigned. So I tried to find a Endocronologist here in Alaska and come to find out we only have one. She is located in Anchorage. I have tried to get into seeing her but every time either I couldn't get medicaid to get me a flight or set up to see her I was denied. I tried this summer and it was hell. I went down with my friend had two-hundred dollars. Tried for a hotel found one and when we went to my appointment they gave my room up to someone else and told me to find somewhere else. My friend knew some family there and we had a place to stay. But my mother in law and father in law where down there and couldn't get a room anywhere so they stayed in there van. Sixty year olds shouldn't have to do that. Well next day went to my appointment to find out that the doctor wasn't there but her nurse would see me. They checked my sugars before I went in they were 32. I waited an hour and a half before I was abl

e to raise them. When I got back to Moose Creek I never wanted to go back. Ever since I've been looking for a doctor. Right now I'm able to see a nurse practitioner. If it wasn't for her I wouldn't know that my brittle diabetes is killing me. So please respond back with any advice on what I can do for those of us that don't have the medical assisstance that we need. Thank you for your time. Heather Sievers

sieversheather@yahoo.com

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 8:27 AM
To: Smith; Lynne M (GOV)
Subject: FW: Dcemebr 21, 2007 E-News

From: Wayne Stevens [mailto:wstevens@alaskachamber.com]
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2007 4:36 PM
To: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored)
Subject: Dcemebr 21, 2007 E-News

Alaska State Chamber of Commerce

December 21, 2007 E-News

Alaska State Chamber Adopts Legislative Priorities

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce has adopted its five legislative priorities for the upcoming session:

. Consistent land use and permitting process for resource development
. Encourage progress on a natural gas pipeline
. Development of an energy policy for Alaska
. Develop a comprehensive fiscal plan
. A strategic economic development plan for Alaska

More than 65 State Chamber members considered over 35 proposals to come up with the five priorities. In addition to these priorities, the State Chamber has taken a position on a number of other critical issues facing the State of Alaska. The board ratified both the priorities and positions at its meeting Friday, November 30 in Anchorage.

The legislative priorities will be delivered to all sixty members of the State Legislature and the Governor. "These priorities will serve as the cornerstone of our advocacy efforts with the legislature during the upcoming session," said Wendy Lindskoog, Chair of the State Chamber.

State Chamber members employ the vast majority of private sectors workers. Action on our five priorities will remove barriers to job creation and create opportunities for business development. For more information on the priorities and positions adopted by the State Chamber, visit our web site

Alaska Statehood Commission Events and Meetings

The next meeting of the Alaska Statehood Celebration Commission is Thursday January 3, 2008,

10:00am-12:00pm in the Governors Conference room at 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1700, Anchorage. Teleconference number 1-800-315-6338, participation code #7450.

That afternoon, the Statehood Commission invites you to the kick-off for the 50th Year Celebration of Statehood and the unveiling of the Statehood Celebration license plates. It is set for January 3 from 1-2:30pm right after the Commission meetings at the Anchorage Museum-Alaska Gallery.

The Alaska Statehood Celebration Commission is established to research, plan and prepare to celebrate Alaska's 50th anniversary of admission as the 49th state of the United States of America. The Commissions vision is to Honor our history, celebrate our future. They want Alaska's 50th Anniversary Celebration to inspire the people of our great state, and across the world, to rejoice in Alaska's past, present, and future.

Melissa Stepovich, Co-chair of the Alaska Statehood Commission in the Governor's Fairbanks office has extended an invitation to Alaska State Chamber members and local Chamber representatives to participate in the Commission's meetings to plan the celebration of the fiftieth year of Statehood.

For more information, contact
Colleen Sullivan-Leonard, Coordinator
Alaska Statehood Celebration Commission
550 West 7th, Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501
Office-269-7456
Fax-269-7461

Wishing a Happy Holiday Season to all of our Members

As the holiday season arrives, we send our best wishes for a holly, jolly holiday season, and a prosperous New Year. We appreciate the support of our members and those who volunteer so much of their time to help us make the Alaska State Chamber, a strong voice for Alaska business. We wish you all the best in the coming year. Thank you for your support.

Small Business Responds to Call for Nominations Of Federal Rules In Need Of Review and Reform

December 31 Deadline For Nominations

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Small businesses and their representatives have eagerly responded to the Office of Advocacy's call for nominations of federal rules in need of review and reform. Nominations have been received from across the country since the announcement of the Regulatory Review and Reform (r3) initiative.

"We are excited about the initial response to our r3 initiative," said Thomas M. Sullivan, Chief Counsel for Advocacy. "Clearly, small business owners are concerned about the burden placed on them by regulations that may be outdate or unwieldy. More importantly, they are doing more than complaining; the small business community is making constructive suggestions for how to improve current rules."

Advocacy research shows that complying with all federal regulations now costs our economy $1.1 trillion per year - more per household than the cost of healthcare. The smallest of businesses bear the brunt of the business regulations. They annually pay 45 percent more per employee to comply with

federal regulations than big businesses do.

The Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration is still seeking nominations of federal rules in need of review and reform. The "Top 10" rules nominated by small business owners, trade associations, and others will be transmitted to appropriate federal agencies for review and reform.

Nominate regulations needing review and reform by visiting the Office of Advocacy r3 website at www.sba.gov/advo/r3, by sending an email to advocacy@sba.gov, or by calling Keith Holman at (202) 205-6936. Nominations are due by December 31, 2007.

The r3 initiative addresses many of the issues raised in a recent GAO report, Reexamining Regulations: Opportunities Exist to Improve Effectiveness and Transparency of Retrospective Reviews. The report spotlighted implementation of section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, which mandates that agencies periodically examine their existing regulations to measure changing impacts on small business.

The Office of Advocacy, the "small business watchdog" of the federal government, examines the role and status of small business in the economy and independently represents the views of small business to federal agencies, Congress, and the President. It is the source for small business statistics presented in user-friendly formats, and it funds research into small business issues.

###

The Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is an independent voice for small business within the federal government. The presidentially appointed Chief Counsel for Advocacy advances the views, concerns, and interests of small business before Congress, the White House, federal agencies, federal courts, and state policy makers. For more information, visit www.sba.gov/advo, or call (202) 205-6533.

Unknown

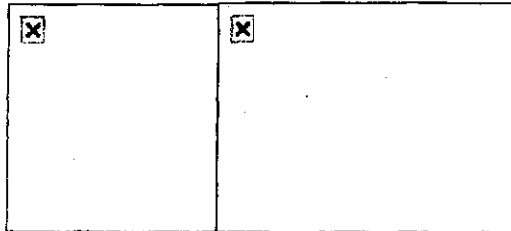
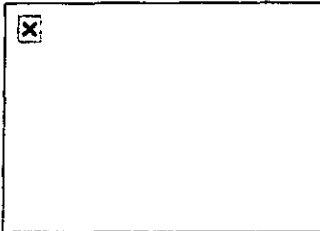
From: Larry Wood [wood.lawrence.d@terrawash.com]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 11:32 AM
To: Palin; Sarah H (GOV); tara.jollie@lalaska.gov; Perry; Kristina Y (GOV); Bailey; Frank T (GOV)
Subject: Merry Chrsitmas!

Merry Christmas!

And
A

Happy New Year!

Me, I will be in HI from 29 December through at least 10 Feb., 2008.
I will try to have the proper "guilt" for being in a warm place. :)

Best regards,
Larry Wood, Gen. Mgr.
Terra Resources, Ltd.
4750 Wolverine Rd. / Palmer, Alaska 99645
Tel.: 907-746-4983 / Fax: 907-746-4980
Cell: 907-355-4938

SOIL REMEDIATION BY TERRAWASH!

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]

Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 8:25 AM

To: charles kohm

Subject: RE: Putting Alaska First - December 2007

Thank you for writing to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. The concerns, opinions, and/or information you have sent are important and valuable to the Governor. Although she is unable to respond to each and every email herself, your message has been received and is being reviewed by the appropriate staff person in this office who can best address your need, suggestion, or comment.

From: charles kohm [mailto:ckguyfromsi@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2007 7:07 PM
To: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored); Csgwireless@aol.com; carinn casey; cheryl paulson/barkley; EDRIS KOHM; edward morgan; Fran Fuller; Glennda and David Rassin; James R Kraft; karen marchese; Kerrysull@aol.com; Kerrysull@aol.com; kevin kohm; lynn cormier; marilyn cucuzza/ciaburri; OttoTina Montalvo; Reba Jean Kimbrough; stephen b atchley; thomas kinslow; Victor Colon; Vivien; vladimir knop
Subject: Re: Putting Alaska First - December 2007

Governor Palin,

I'm so happy you sent me this e-mail.

I'm going to forward this to all of my friends and family in the lower 48 states. I know everyone wants to know what you are doing for the 'budget' in Alaska. There are lots of questions about your budget and WHO is going to benefit from it.

I'd like to know how much of the savings is going to the Governor Palin Foundation.

Thank you Sarah Palin!

Merry Christmas,

Charlie Kohm

Staten Island, New York

----- Original Message -----
From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) <governor@alaska.gov>
To: Governor_Mailing_List@list.state.ak.us
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2007 7:54:09 PM
Subject: Putting Alaska First - December 2007

If this newsletter does not display correctly, you can view it online here >>>

December 2007

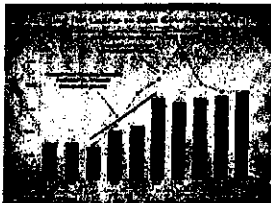
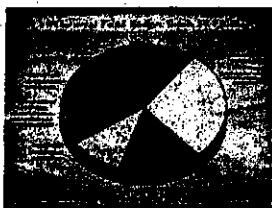
Items of Interest

Peak Performance Denali Awards Coming Soon!

The nomination period for the second annual Governor's Peak Performance Denali Awards, which recognize outstanding employees and teams for excellence in service to the state, will be Jan 1-Feb. 15. Outstanding State of Alaska employees can be nominated in four categories – coworker recognition, excellence in customer service, exceptional performance and leadership.

Nominations can be made by any employee, including self-nomination. For more information about the nomination process, please visit the website at http://dop.state.ak.us/index.php?id=1120.

Nominations must be made on the official nomination form for the appropriate award category. Each nomination must be submitted to the employee's departmental Denali Award representative by Feb. 15. Department Denali Award representatives are

FY09 Budget Documents

Click to Download
Changing the Course to Slow Government Growth

Click to Download
FY09 General Fund Budget

Flags Lowered for Secretary of the Alaska Constitutional Convention

Judge Tom Stewart Dead at 88

Governor Sarah Palin ordered state flags lowered to half-staff on Dec. 18 in honor and memory of retired Superior Court Judge Thomas Stewart. Judge Stewart died Dec. 12 in Juneau. He was 88.

Judge Stewart served in the territorial

Christmas is a season for good will and hope to spread across Alaska, from our smallest villages to our largest cities, and to brighten even the darkest, coldest winter nights. We are so blessed to live and work in a state rich in resources and opportunities.

Great things are happening in Alaska every day. As we approach 50 years as a state, we can reflect on how far we've come and how far we can still go, limited only by our own vision and determination. We have so much to be thankful for as we celebrate this special season of giving and fellowship, love and charity.

I want to thank Alaska's service men and women for their devoted service to our nation. We are deeply grateful for their courage, bravery and personal sacrifice. May they have God's protection and may they return home safely and quickly to their loved ones.

To every Alaskan, may the peace and goodwill of this special season fill every heart and warm every home with the blessings that fill our lives.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

We presented a budget on Dec. 10 to the Legislature, five days before the Dec. 15 mandate. Our $4.6 billion budget, which includes pro-business, pro-family initiatives, is part of a fiscal plan for Alaska that builds on our commitment to slow the trend of government growth, from an average of 14 percent to only four percent.

The plan is based on three principles – saving for the future, living within our means and controlling government spending and ramping up resource development. Our plan focuses on investment in core services and constitutionally mandated state responsibilities.

I announced a $7.1 billion savings and investment plan on Dec. 5. The savings portion of our proposal is a key element of our fiscal plan. By setting money aside, Alaska will be able to meet its obligations – like funding schools, public safety and infrastructure – when oil prices drop, revenues decline and the federal largesse that we're so used to may not continue at the same level that Alaska has seen in the past.

We are extremely blessed with a projected surplus of $4.6 billion. This gives us the opportunity to do more than save for near term spending. We have an unprecedented opportunity to save for future generations.

CLICK TO LISTEN
Governor Sarah Palin announces her Fiscal Year 2009 proposed Budget.

CLICK TO LISTEN
Lt. Governor Sean Parnell comments on building the FY09 proposed Budget.

GO ONLINE TO THE BUDGET PRIORITIES WEBPAGE
http://www.gov.state.ak.us/govbudget.php

Commissioner Click Bishop
Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Q: Commissioner, please describe your personal background?
I first came to Alaska in 1959. My father worked for Green Construction Company. My summers as a young person were spent around Alaska on construction projects from Ketchikan to Kotzebue and just about every town or village on the Alaska State Highway System. I am a third generation construction worker. After graduating from Lathrop High School in Fairbanks I went to work on the Trans Alaska Pipeline. I spent 16 years in the field on projects all over the state and I spent another 16 years working for the Alaska Operating Engineers Training Trust as coordinator and administrator.

Q: What do you do for fun on your spare time?
I like to hunt, trap and fish, snow machine, race boats and mine for gold. I love to spend

House of Representatives and served as a senator in the first session of the Alaska Legislature. He was the secretary of the Alaska Constitutional Convention in 1955 and 1956. Judge Stewart also served as Superior Court Judge in Juneau from 1966 until his retirement in 1981.M

During World War II, he was a U.S. Army captain in the 10th Mountain Division ski troops, serving in Italy and the Aleutian Islands.

"We lost a true visionary and a wealth of Alaska knowledge," said Governor Palin. "We can forever hold on to Judge Stewart's Alaskan spirit and his guidance for the future if we abide by the constitution he helped create. Todd and I send our thoughts and prayers to his family and loved ones."

Judge Stewart volunteered for the Juneau World Affairs Council, served on the board of directors for the Symphony Foundation and the Southeast Alaska Land Trust, and was active with the Juneau Lyric Opera and other arts and community groups.

Judge Stewart is survived by six of his children

Governor to Present State of the State Address

Governor Palin will present her 2008 State of the State address to the citizens of Alaska at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 15 before a joint session of the Alaska Legislature in the House Chamber in the Capitol. The Legislature will hold its regular 2008 session Jan. 15-Apr. 13.

quality time with my wife, daughters and granddaughters, and my dog Raven.

Q: What is your favorite movie and why?
Patton. I am very patriotic. Patton thought outside the box and didn't lead from the rear. My uncle served with Patton's 3rd Army and was also an honor guard at his funeral. Patton could motivate people. Makes you proud to be an American.

Q: What was your least favorite job and/or experience?
Cutting open asphalt drums with a chisel, one barrel at a time. Years ago asphalt was shipped to the bush in 55 gallon drums and you had to manually remove the top of the drum. When you use up to 8,000 gallons a day, that's a lot of drums -- boring.

Q: How have you worked with the Alaska labor community?
I worked for the Alaska Operating Engineers Training Trust as the statewide coordinator and administrator for 16 years promoting and expanding apprenticeship opportunities. I also worked on bringing other training programs together in sharing resources and training together as a team where applicable. Some of the trainings that occurred were ball field, soccer field and parking lot grading and paving for non-profit organizations.

Q: What is your involvement with the Alaska Pipeline Training program?
Alaska Works Partnership provides a pipeline training course every fall to Alaskans wanting to work in the oil and gas construction industry. My previous involvement with the pipeline training was as the team leader for the program. My present involvement is knowledge transfer.

Q: After graduation, what opportunities become available for graduates?
In the past more than 90 percent of graduates of each class were placed on North Slope pipeline projects in the same training year.

Q: Why is this program important for the development of the Alaska workforce, especially with the Natural Gas Pipeline on the horizon?
It is our responsibility, everyone not just the state, this time around to step up to the plate and maximize the lessons learned from the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) construction, and implement those lessons to training the next generation of Alaskan pipeliners.

Q: What would you tell a student who is worried about the future of oil and gas development in Alaska with the declining fields and world focus on alternative energies?
I would tell a student today the same thing that I told our entry level class of operators in 1998. Alaska is the place to be for the next 25 years in the business of oil and gas, as well as highway construction and mineral development. I am the eternal optimist and never really had a bad day. Some are just better than others. Life is what you make of it.

Q: How does an interested party find additional information for enrollment?
Alaska Works Partnerships, (907) 569-4711.

OPEN YOUR BROWSER

Until Every One Comes Home.

Support Our Troops, at Home and Away
A great way to help our soldiers when they are away is to support the USO (United Service Organizations). They provide all the services our men and women in uniform need beyond the battlefield. Show your support and visit the USO website.

Until next time,

Sarah

Governor Sarah Palin

If you wish to stop receiving this publication, you can unsubscribe here.

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 8:23 AM
To: Kim; Anna C (GOV)
Subject: FW: Termination of Treatment Foster Care Placement Agreement

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From: Enochs [mailto:enotague@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2007 7:21 PM
To: 'Mock, Cathy'
Cc: 'R. Thor & Joanna Williams'; Frisby, Susan E (HSS); Hildreth, Thomas A (HSS); 'Ron Cowan'; donald.kitchen@alaska.gov; Starry, Rebecca R (LAW); Sandoval, Tammy K (HSS); Palin, Sarah H (GOV); Jackson, Karleen K (HSS); Twomey, Timothy M (LAW); Johnston, Shanna R (LAW); 'Julie Fulmer'; Knight, Denise (LAA)
Subject: RE: Termination of Treatment Foster Care Placement Agreement

Mr. Evans,

Therapeutic Foster Care is included in my foster son's current treatment plan. It is also the one therapy in his care plan that has been consistently stable and successful. Yvonne Chase has never been listed as a member of my foster son's treatment team, and as such, does not get to suddenly exclude successful therapies to suit her fancy. Treatment plan decisions are made by the guardian(s), in a treatment team format. Medicaid pays the bills— NOT DENALI FAMILY SERVICES. My foster son continues to receive therapeutic foster care therapy in my therapeutic foster home, and I expect to be reimbursed for services rendered.

Who shall I bill as of 12/13/07?

Ron Cowan, Disability Law Center of AK:

Since this clearly is an effort to cause financial strain in this foster home, and thereby disrupt my foster son's placement, would you mind running this by your lawyers to advise us of our rights?

Mr. Kitchen and Ms. Starry:

Help. Please.

From: Mock, Cathy [mailto:Mock.Cathy@dorsey.com]
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2007 3:34 PM
To: enotague@mtaonline.net
Cc: Evans, William; Chiara, Melissa
Subject: Termination of Treatment Foster Care Placement Agreement

Please see attached letter from Bill Evans.

Catherine L. Mock
Legal Secretary
....
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
1031 West Fourth Avenue
Suite 600

Anchorage, AK 99501-5907
P: 907.257.7812 **F**: 907.276.4152

<<Letter to Enochs .pdf>>

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]

Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 8:09 AM

To: Bernie Holland

Subject: RE: Merry Christmas,.....

Thank you for writing to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. The concerns, opinions, and/or information you have sent are important and valuable to the Governor. Although she is unable to respond to each and every email herself, your message has been received and is being reviewed by the appropriate staff person in this office who can best address your need, suggestion, or comment.

From: Bernie Holland [mailto:yukonjack@99737.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 22, 2007 1:11 PM
To: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored)
Subject: Merry Christmas,.....

Governor Palin and family,

The Holland family of Delta Junction would like to thank you ever so much for a very wonderful year with all your hard work and long days spent bringing Alaska back to where she should be, a 'Great' state to live in with honest and fair people. May we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Thank you again Governor Palin,

Affectionately,

Bernie, Mary & Sang-Jin Holland

-------*Original Message*-------

From: Governor Sarah Palin
To: yukonjack@wildak.net
Subject: RE: Other

Dear Mr. and Ms. Holland:

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]

Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 7:42 AM

To: Spurlin; Ada K (HSS)

Subject: RE: I don't know what to do

Thank you for writing to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. The concerns, opinions, and/or information you have sent are important and valuable to the Governor. Although she is unable to respond to each and every email herself, your message has been received and is being reviewed by the appropriate staff person in this office who can best address your need, suggestion, or comment.

From: Spurlin, Ada K (HSS)
Sent: Sunday, December 23, 2007 5:32 PM
To: Palin, Sarah H (GOV)
Subject: I don't know what to do

Privileged or Personal Material Redacted

You can contact me at Privileged or Personal I. I look forward to talking to you.

Unknown

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored) [/O=SOA/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=GOVERNOR]
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 8:36 AM
To: Cayce; Sunny C (GOV)
Subject: FW: Wildlife Danger in Anchorage

-----Original Message-----

From: DAVID & DONNA WILLIAMS [mailto:dwilli7269@ak.net]

Sent: Friday, December 21, 2007 10:07 AM

To: DFG, Commissioner (DFG sponsored)

Cc: Palin, Sarah H (GOV)

Subject: Wildlife Danger in Anchorage

Wolfs are killing pets and confronting humans in the Anchorage area and no one is doing anything to stop it. This increasing danger to the safety of our residents and pets has gone too far and must be contained now before someone get hurt or killed. It has already escalated to the point where yesterday a pack of wolfs surrounded three local women walking their pets and attacked one of their dogs.

ADF&G Mission Statement

To protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state,

consistent with the sustained yield principle.

This situation is out of control. What is Fish and Game doing to protect the "well-being of the people of the state" that reside in Anchorage from this wildlife danger?

Dave Williams

December 24, 2007

Honorable Sarah Palin
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Palin:

Considering the high cost of energy, lack of infrastructure, limited labor pool and very high cost of operation, running a business in rural Alaska can be quite a challenge. This is particularly true in emerging industries where new obstacles are encountered around every corner. The last thing a rural entrepreneur needs is the state government pushing their heads under water.

Unfortunately, the "mom and pop" operations comprising the membership of the Alaskan Shellfish Growers Association find themselves in the position of being put out of business by the same government that is promising to help us develop one of Alaska's most promising opportunities to create new year-round businesses and employment. The state constitution even supports development of a responsible aquaculture industry, but that's not what we're feeling as we face state-imposed user fees that will put us out of business.

If the State of Alaska wants to help rural coastal communities strengthen economies battered by the loss of the timber industry and shrinking fishing and seafood processing opportunities it shouldn't work to foreclose promising new economic opportunities before they even get off the ground.

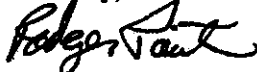
For the past five years we have been trying to convince the state to resume funding tests on shellfish for presence of paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP), but we've only been successful at temporarily keeping the program funded. But, these fixes are about to expire and we're looking at funding PSP testing through user fees that are so high that they will put at least half of existing shellfish farms out of business.

This includes my own farm, Tenass Pass Shellfish Company, which has been in business for the past 20 years. If the fees were in place this summer, I would have had to pay $250 per week to the DEC lab to sell $1,000 worth of oysters and clams, or 25 percent of my gross revenues. No small rural Alaska business can survive if the state takes one-fourth of its gross receipts before bills are paid for labor, fuel, freight, and

Rodger Painter, president • P.O. Box 20704 Juneau, AK 99802-0704
Phone: (907) 957-0704 • Fax: (907) 586-1097 • rodgerpainter@hotmail.com

materials, etc. For us it is as simple as looking at our already red bottom line and seeing the new fees would have doubled our losses last year.

If we have to close our operation, Naukati will lose two full-time, year-round jobs and the $50,000 a year we spend in the community. You'll see this repeated in another two dozen farms scattered between Prince of Wales and Prince William Sound. While this may not be an economic emergency, these lost jobs and future potential are painful in an area like rural Southeast that is projected to lose 25 percent of its population by 2030.

As you can see from the attached resolution of the Southeast Conference, the PSP program also is widely regarded by coastal residents as an important state service designed to help protect public health. Every shellfish-producing state in the country provides free PSP testing of commercial harvests to ensure widespread compliance with monitoring programs except Alaska. As the population the most at risk of getting sick or dying of PSP, Alaskans deserve the same level of public health protection as other states.

We respectfully request you reconsider your administration's decision to not include PSP testing as a general fund expenditure. We hope to be able to count on your administration as being supportive of shellfish farming.

We are confident the legislature will insert the $80,000 in general funds to support this vital public health service if DEC just supports the proposal. So far, the agency has remained neutral on the issue.

While we understand your determination to hold the line on state spending, this small incremental expenditure certainly is well within the reach of the state to fund at a time when Alaska is enjoying billions of dollars in surplus revenues.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Rodger Painter
ASGA President

c.c. Cora Crome, governor's office
Larry Hartig and Kristen Ryan, ADEC
ASGA members